Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A man-machine interface method comprising:

generating physical interactions with active zones [[(10)]] belonging to an interface object [[(5)]], said active zones being associated with predetermined items of information;

detecting the active zones at which said interactions occur by measuring at least one physical magnitude; and

associating each detected interaction with the predetermined item of information corresponding to the active zone where said interaction has been detected;

the method ~~being characterized in that~~ wherein the active zones are defined for a predetermined finite length of time and then deactivated at the end of said predetermined length of time; and

~~and in that~~ when interactions with said interface object are detected while said active zones are deactivated, said active zones are redefined automatically and successively as a function of the first successively-detected interactions.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~in which when~~ wherein an interactions are detected with the interface object [[(5)]] while said active zones [[(10)]] are deactivated, said active zones are automatically redefined only if a predetermined initial sequence of successive interactions is detected.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, in which said predetermined initial sequence of interactions comprises two successive interactions at a single location on the interface object, within a time interval shorter than a predetermined duration.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, in which the location of said two successive interactions determines a first active zone [[(10)]].

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, in which, during a stage of redefining active zones subsequent to said initial sequence, a predetermined number K of active zones [[(10)]] are defined in succession at the locations of the K first interactions to be detected after said initial predetermined sequence of interactions.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, in which the stage of redefining the active zones is interrupted if no following interaction is detected during a predetermined timeout after a detected interaction.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, in which during the stage of redefining active zones, an interaction is detected in an active zone [[(10)]] when the measured physical magnitude is subject to a variation that is greater than a first predetermined limit, and after said stage of redefining active zones, an interaction is detected in an active zone when the measured physical magnitude is subject to a variation greater than a second predetermined limit that is itself less than the first limit.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, in which during the stage of redefining active zones, an interaction is detected in an active zone when the measured physical magnitude is subject to a variation for a duration that is longer than a first predetermined limit duration, and after said stage of redefining active zones, an interaction is detected in an active zone when the measured physical magnitude is subject to a variation for a duration that is longer than a second predetermined limit duration, itself shorter than the first limit duration.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which when interactions with the interface object [[(5)]] are detected while the active zones [[(10)]] are deactivated, the P first detected interactions are recorded during a recording stage, where P is a predetermined non-zero integer, and Z active zones are automatically redefined as a function of said first P detected interactions, where Z is a non-zero integer less than P, corresponding to interactions detected in different zones, and then the predetermined items of information corresponding to the P first detected interactions are determined.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, in which the recording stage is interrupted if one of the P first interactions is not followed by a following interaction within a time period shorter than a predetermined timeout duration.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~in which when~~ wherein the interactions with the interface object [[(5)]] are detected while the active zones [[(10)]] are deactivated, the P first detected interactions are recorded during a recording stage, where P is a non-zero integer, said recording stage terminating when the interaction P is substantially identical to the first interaction of the recording stage, and P-1 active zones are automatically redefined as a function of said P first detected interactions corresponding to interactions detected in different zones, and then the predetermined items of information corresponding to the P-1 redefined active zones are determined, with said items of information depending on the number P-1.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the set of active zones is subdivided into a plurality of groups of active zones, and ~~in which~~ when interactions with the interface object are detected in an active zone belonging to a group of deactivated active zones, said active zones of said group of active zones are redefined automatically and successively in a manner that is independent from the other groups of active zones.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which, when interactions are detected with the interface object while said active zones are deactivated, said active zones are redefined automatically and successively as a function of the first interactions to be successively detected, and the detected interactions are associated substantially simultaneously with the predetermined items of information.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the measured physical magnitude is selected from a soundwave, a mechanical strain, a quantity of back-scattered light, and an electric field.

15. (Currently Amended) A man-machine interface device specially adapted to implement a method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

16. (New) A method according to claim 3, in which, during a stage of redefining active zones subsequent to said initial sequence, a predetermined number K of active zones are defined in succession at the locations of the K first interactions to be detected after said initial predetermined sequence of interactions.

17. (New) A method according to claim 4, in which, during a stage of redefining active zones subsequent to said initial sequence, a predetermined number K of active zones are defined in succession at the locations of the K first interactions to be detected after said initial predetermined sequence of interactions.

18. (New) A method according to claim 16, in which the stage of redefining the active zones is interrupted if no following interaction is detected during a predetermined timeout after a detected interaction.

19. (New) A method according to claim 17, in which the stage of redefining the active zones is interrupted if no following interaction is detected during a predetermined timeout after a detected interaction.

20. (New) A method according to claim 6, in which during the stage of redefining active zones, an interaction is detected in an active zone [[(10)]] when the measured physical magnitude is subject to a variation that is greater than a first predetermined limit, and after said stage of redefining active zones, an interaction is detected in an active zone when the measured physical magnitude is subject to a variation greater than a second predetermined limit that is itself less than the first limit.